

host computer connected to the network in the domestic firm 112. The domestic firm 112 is connected to Patent Office 114 through the Internet and a telephone line 206. Similarly, the domestic firm 112 is connected to the head office 107, and the Corporation B 201 is connected to the Corporation C 202 also through the Internet and a telephone line 207. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 62, line 21, and ending at page 63, line 1, as follows:

-- First, in step S4700, documents such as an idea sheet, a proposal document, the specification of an application, a notice of rejection, an argument, an amendment, etc., are accumulated in the document server 114, and it is determined in step 4701 whether or not a predetermined time has passed. For example, when one day passed, a document transfer process overseas is started at midnight. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 63, line 7, and ending at page 63, line 20, as follows:

-- On the other hand, in the case of a document to be transmitted overseas, the table (stored in the management server 115) shown in FIG. 46 is referred to, and it is determined whether or not the document is to be restricted in overseas transmission. If not, the document is transmitted overseas in step S4708. When a document is to be restricted, it is determined in step 4704 whether or not a predetermined period has passed from the application date because there are regulations in the U.S. Patent Law stating that the restrictions expire if six months have passed from the application date.

If the predetermined period has passed, the document is transmitted overseas in step S4708. --.

In the Abstract

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 77, line 2 and ending at page 77, line 13, as follows:

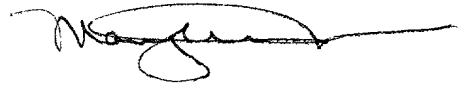
-- An information processing apparatus for efficiently managing documents and various procedures relating to a patent application where information relating to a patent application is accumulated in a database for each case, and managed for due date so that when an inventor has to study a case, a request to study the case is issued to the inventor through a network, and the state of the study by the inventor is checked through the network. A case can then be transferred to a request from a third party to study the case, and the transfer of document data overseas can then be managed according to the applicable laws and regulations. --.

REMARKS

The Specification and the Abstract for the above-identified application has been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors. A marked-up version of the Specification and Abstract is submitted as "Attachment A - Marked-Up Version of Specification and Abstract." Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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